

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

10

meeting date: 16 September 2014
 title: TAXI ENFORCEMENT OPERATION
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: MAIR HILL

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform committee of the results of an inspection of licensed private hire and hackney carriage vehicles.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - }
- Corporate Priorities - } Consideration of these issues will promote the Council's aim to be a well-managed Council.
- Other Considerations - }

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On 19 July 2014, the Council's Taxi Enforcement Officer carried out an inspection of 22 licensed private hire and hackney carriage vehicles, in a joint operation with the Police, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and HM Revenue and Customs.

3. ISSUES

3.1 Of the 22 vehicles inspected, 17 were found to be of the required standard, the driver of one vehicle was served with a prohibition notice requiring him to withdraw his vehicle from operation immediately and four were served with delayed prohibition notices requiring work to be carried out on their vehicles within 7 days. These were all complied with. The results of the inspection and other advice to users of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles was issued to the press and a copy of the Council's press release covering this matter is enclosed as **Appendix 1**.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – No implications identified.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Improved control of licence holders should improve public safety.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – Improved public safety will enhance the Council's reputation.
- Equality & Diversity – None

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Mair Hill

MAIR HILL
SOLICITOR

Marshal Scott

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Mair Hill, extension 3216

REF: MJH/Licensing Committee/16 September 2014 2014

PRESS RELEASE



**Ribble Valley
Borough Council**

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

TAXI ENFORCEMENT SWOOP IN RIBBLE VALLEY

TAXI enforcement officers at Ribble Valley Borough Council joined forces with the police, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and HM Revenue and Customs in a Saturday night swoop on unroadworthy vehicles.

Twenty-two vehicles were targeted in a late-night inspection at taxi ranks in Clitheroe.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's taxi enforcement officer, Carl Rung, said: "Maintaining a high standard of vehicles is something we take seriously and we carry out regular checks to ensure taxis and their drivers are meeting licensing requirements.

"This was a joint operation with the police, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and fuel inspectors from HM Revenue and Customs, where vehicles were subject to a rigorous inspection to ensure they were compliant with licence conditions."

Of the 22 vehicles inspected, 17 were found to be of the required standard, the driver of one was served with a prohibition notice requiring him to withdraw the vehicle from operation immediately and four were served with advisory notices requiring work to be carried out on their vehicles within seven days.

Carl Rung added: "The council requires the immediate withdrawal of hackney carriage or private hire vehicles constituting a risk to public safety, or work carried out to ensure the vehicles are of a high standard.

"Although one vehicle was found to be unroadworthy, we are delighted that most were of an excellent standard."

Ribble Valley residents are reminded not to use unlicensed taxis or flag down private hire vehicles over the summer.

And Ribble Valley Borough Council has issued the following tips to help taxi-users have a safe journey:

- 1/ "Yellow plate" private hire vehicles must be pre-booked. Only "blue plate" hackney carriages can be flagged down or hired from a taxi rank and it is illegal for private hire vehicles to pick up passengers in the street, unless they are pre-booked
- 2/ Check drivers are wearing identification badges that have not expired
- 3/ Check the identity of drivers against photographs on identification badges
- 4/ Check that cab licence plates at the back of vehicles or on the left-hand side of windscreens are in date
- 5/ Don't give personal details to drivers
- 6/ Agree private hire fees in advance. Metred hackney cab fees are set by the council

Ribble Valley Borough Council's register of licensed premises, vehicles and drivers featuring the names of taxi licence holders, along with licence numbers, issue and expiry dates, and licence terms, is available on the council's web site.

Members of the public can use the register to ensure vehicles are licensed, which means they will be safe, comfortable and roadworthy, and that drivers have a reasonable knowledge of the area, are medically fit and free from serious convictions.

Anyone who suspects a taxi firm of operating without a licence or a driver of driving without a licence, or using an unlicensed vehicle, is asked to make a note of the vehicle's licence number and contact the council's licensing team on 01200 414411.

Ends.

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Date: July 23 2014.

Further details for the press are available from Ribble Valley Borough Council's communications unit on 01200 414483 or 07971 978766.

